

What is claimed is:

1 An apparatus for controlling image quality reduction of image information for reducing image quality of image information and conducting a digital copy by means of a digital information compression technology, comprising:
5 a reverse section for reversing a specific code by means of a code stream of said image information, and outputting it after reducing image quality of said image information by means of reverse of one code or a plurality of codes.

10 2 An apparatus for controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 1, wherein said reverse section reverses a code on a coefficient table of discrete cosine transform.

15 3 An apparatus for controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 1, wherein said reverse section reverses a code within a range in which a code stream can be combined by means of a digital information compression technology without changing data length of said code stream.

20 4 An apparatus for controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 1, wherein said reverse section changes a deterioration degree of image quality by specifying a reverse position of a code.

25 5 An apparatus for controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 1, wherein said reverse section specifies a reverse position by means of coordinates within

each unit block of image information.

6 An apparatus for controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 1, wherein said reverse section conducts image quality reduction of image information by

5 dividing it into two steps or more than or equal to three steps.

7 An apparatus for controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 1, wherein said reverse section conducts image quality reduction for at least one of a Y component, a Cr component and a Cb component of image information.

10 8 An apparatus for controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 1, wherein said reverse section has a random number generator for generating a random number for designating existence of code reverse.

15 9 A method of controlling image quality reduction of image information for reducing image quality of image information and conducting a digital copy by means of a digital information compression technology, comprising steps of:

reversing a specific code by means of a code stream of said image information, and outputting it after reducing image 20 quality of said image information by means of reverse of one code or a plurality of codes.

25 10 A method of controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 9, wherein said reverse step includes a step of reversing a code on a coefficient table of discrete cosine transform.

11 A method of controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 9, wherein said reverse step includes a step of reversing a code within a range in which a code stream can be combined by means of a digital information compression technology without changing data length of said code stream.

12 A method of controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 9, wherein said reverse step includes a step of changing a deterioration degree of image quality by specifying a reverse position of a code.

13 A method of controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 9, wherein said reverse step includes a step of specifying a reverse position by means of coordinates within each unit block of image information.

14 A method of controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 9, wherein said reverse step includes a step of conducting image quality reduction of image information by dividing it into two steps or more than or equal to three steps.

15 A method of controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 9, wherein said reverse step includes a step of conducting image quality reduction for at least one of a Y component, a Cr component and a Cb component of image information.

16 A method of controlling image quality reduction of image

information according to claim 9, wherein said reverse step includes of a step of generating a random number for designating existence of code reverse.